

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Brice-Johnson Farm Inventory Number: K-156

Address: 32721 Galena Sassafras Road City: Galena Zip Code: 21635

County: Kent USGS Topographic Map: Millington

Owner: Hoch/White Farm Associates

Tax Parcel Number: 10 Tax Map Number: 08 Tax Account ID Number: 025104

Project: American Towers-Galena Site Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes ___ Name: ___ Date: ___

Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Is the property located within a historic district? X no ___ yes ___ Name of district: ___

Is district listed? ___ no ___ yes Determined eligible? ___ no ___ yes District Inventory Number: ___

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form completed by Margaret Q. Fallaw (1986); Historic Houses of Kent County (1998)

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Brice-Johnson Farm is a farmstead covering 198 acres south of MD Route 290. The farmstead consists of a rectangular 2 1/2-story brick hall and parlor house a corncrib/garage, hay barn, windmill, and family (Brice) cemetery. The house was built in ca. 1785 and in the intervening years has undergone such alterations as the addition of a brick addition to the west side and the construction of a rear frame ell. In 1990, the current owners constructed a brick addition to the eastern side of the house.

The property was documented in a 1986 MIHP form and in the 1998 Historic Houses of Kent County. Photographs accompanying both sources show the house with the frame ell (1986) and without the 1990 brick addition. The property currently is used as a commercial nursery. According to the 1998 Historic Houses of Kent County, "the house has been crudely remodeled in recent years" (323).

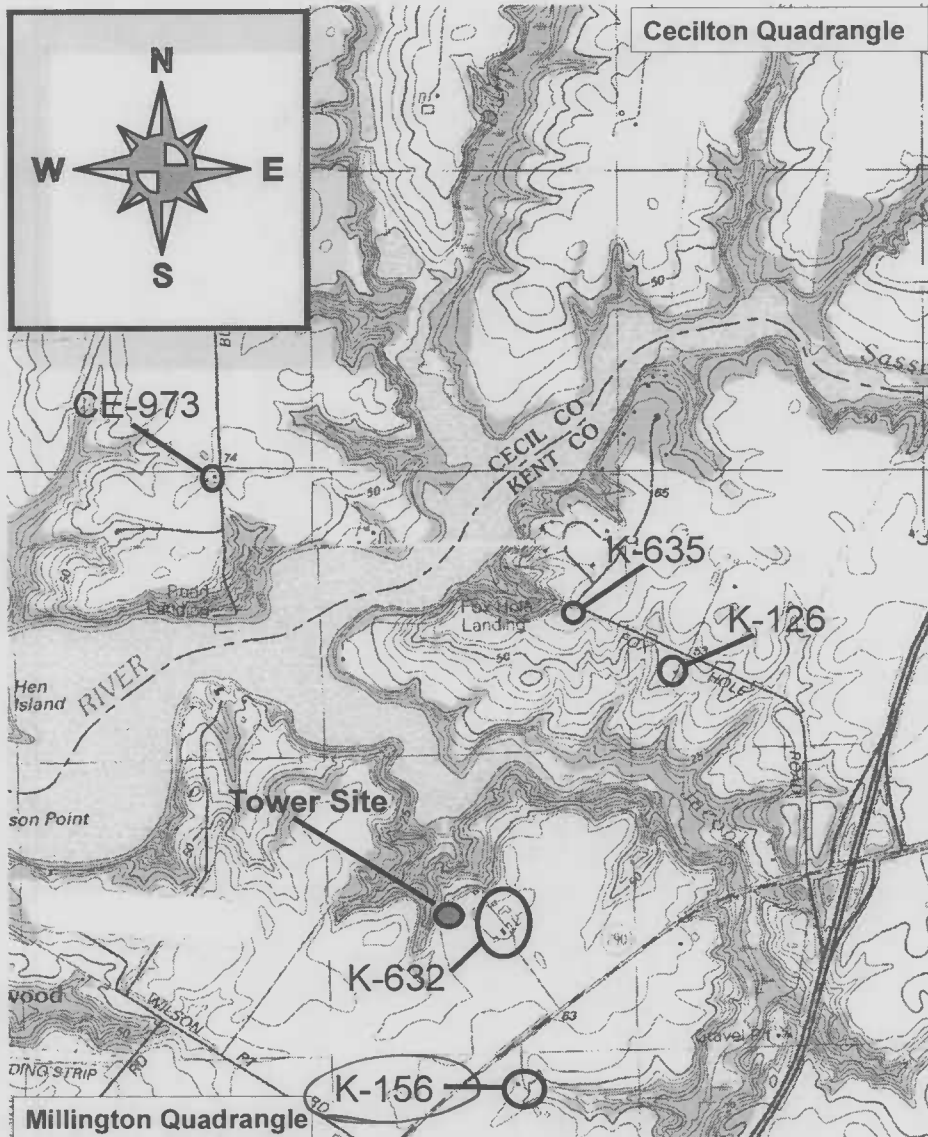
Based on a comparison of photographs illustrating the Brice-Johnson farm during the late 1980s and its present condition, it does not appear that the buildings retain their integrity. The introduction of modern greenhouses to the farmstead plan and the unsympathetic demolition of historic farmstead buildings further compromise the resource's integrity. The Brice-Johnson Farm does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: David S. Rotenstein Date Prepared: November 2000

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <u>X</u>	Eligibility not recommended ___
Criteria: ___ A ___ B <u>X</u> C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
Comments: _____	

<u>David S. Rotenstein</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>Jan. 10, 2001</u> Date
<u>Blunt</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>2/7/01</u> Date

K-156





K-156

Brice-Johnson farm

32721 Galena-

Sassafraz Rd.

Kent Co., MD

Photographer David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date November, 2000

Negative : MD SHPO

Subject: House, view to the
South

Photo: 1/5



K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

32721 Galena Sassafras Rd.

Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rutenfranz

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MD SHPO

Subject: House, view to
the North

Photo: 2/5



K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm
32721 Catena Sassafras Rd.
Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Subject: Barn, south of house

photo: 3/5-



K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

32721 Galena Sassafras Rd.

Kent Co., MD

Photographer: David S. Rostenker

Photo Date: November 2000

Negative: MDSHPD

Subject: View of Farm

Buildings, to the North

Photo: 4/5



K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

32721 Galena Sassafras Road

Kent Co, MD

Photographer: David S. Rotenstein

Photo Date: November, 2000

Negative: MDSHPO

Subject: Brice Family cemetery,
North of house; view to the NW

Photo 5/5

K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

Near Galena

c. 4th quarter 18th Century & 1st quarter 19th Century

In the northern part of the first election district stands an early brick house that has suffered at the hands of insensitive owners. It is referred to as the Brice-Johnson Farm because of the presence of Brice family gravestones in the north yard in the past and the ownership by the Johnson family in 1986.

When the house was first built at the end of the 18th Century, it was composed of a two bay long, two story brick dwelling, facing south, with a frame or log kitchen wing on the east. The brick part had a basement and one room and stairhall above. The main room had a fireplace in its northeast corner, similar to Partner's Addition's west room. Both facades were laid in Flemish bond.

In the first quarter of the 19th Century, a two bay extension was built on the west side of the stairhall, creating asymmetrical four bay facades. The new addition contained only one room per floor, the first floor boasting a wall of paneling across the west fireplace wall and paneled wainscot on the other three. Both the mantel and flanking glazed cabinets had fluted pilasters, a sophisticated architectural treatment of the Federal period.

"W. A. Brice" was printed next to the house on the 1860 map and in the 1877 Atlas – "the Est. of W. A. Brice." During the Brice occupancy the facade was reoriented to the north with the addition of a full-length porch

with period brackets to match the overhanging eave. It was probably during its reorientation that a two story plank wing was moved south of the house. It was reputed to have been a dwelling for hired hands to assist with the operation of the farm, but once the old kitchen wing was removed, it was pressed into service as a kitchen, attached with a small hyphen to the south entry.

The house has been crudely remodeled in recent years and the Brice family gravestones have been removed.

K-156

1750-1790; 1790-1810

Brice-Johnson Farm

Near Sassafras

Private

The gable-roofed, two-storey, brick Brice-Johnson Farm is located on the southeast side of the Galena-Sassafras road (Route 290). Its present main facade is the north one, but originally it was the south facade. The main section is four bays wide but consists of an earlier two-bay east section with one room and stair hall on its west, and a two-bay addition that added one large room on the west, making the plan central-hall. The main entry is in the second bay from the east on the north side, into the stair hall under the landing. The east section is the older, appearing to date to the eighteenth century, in a vernacular style that was probably Federal, though there are Victorian-period changes. The west wall of the first-storey west room is panelled, with center fireplace and side cabinets; the remainder of the room has wainscoting. The roof is Victorian, with brackets and built-in gutters. A perpendicular frame wing is attached to the rear of the brick house by a hyphen. All early farm outbuildings are gone. The east end of this house is important as a very early building, though now much cannot be learned about it because it has been so altered, probably in the middle nineteenth century as well as recently. The corner fireplaces are very unusual in Kent County, but the reason here may be tied to the fact that there was formerly a section farther to the east. The west room has panelling to an extent rarely found in the county, and it certainly is rare in the upper county, though it does not seem particularly early and the panels are recessed and plain. The pair of round-headed glazed cabinets is even more unusual. The change in main facades indicates that the road pattern in the area earlier was different from the way it has been since at least the middle of the nineteenth century. Perhaps it is a clue to an early settlement near the head of Swantown Creek, to which there are references, though its location is now unknown.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Brice-Johnson Farm

2. Location

street & number South side of Rt. 290, 1.7 miles west of Sassafras ☐ not for publicationcity, town Sassafras ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Anthony C. Johnson, et al

street & number telephone no.: 755-6868

city, town Golts state and zip code Maryland 21637

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 71

street & number Cross Street folio 751

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 4, 1968 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-156

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The gable-roofed, two-story, brick Brice-Johnson Farm is located on the southeast side of the Galena-Sassafras road (Route 290). Its present main facade is the north one, but originally it was the south facade. The main section is four bays wide but consists of an earlier two-bay addition that added with one room and stair hall on its west, and a two-bay addition that added one large room on the west. The main entry is in the second bay from that east on the north side, into the stair hall under the landing. The east section is the older, appearing to date to the eighteenth century, in a vernacular style that was probably Federal, though there are Victorian-period changes. The west wall of the first-story west room is panelled, with center fireplace and side cabinets; the remainder of the room has wainscoting. The roof is Victorian, with brackets and built-in gutters. A perpendicular frame wing is attached to the rear of the brick house by a hyphen. All early farm outbuildings are gone.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-156

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1750 & 1790–1820 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The east end of this house is important as a very early building, though now much cannot be learned about it because it has been so altered, probably in the middle nineteenth century as well as recently. The corner fireplaces are very unusual in Kent County, but the reason here may be tied to the fact that there was a now-gone section farther to the east. The west room has panelling to an extent rarely found in the county, and it certainly is rare in the upper county, though it does not seem particularly early. The pair of round-headed cabinets is even more unusual. The change in main facades indicated that the road pattern in the area earlier was different from the way it has been since at least the middle of the nineteenth century. Perhaps it is a clue to an early settlement near the head of Swantown Creek, to which there are references, though its location is now unknown.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-156

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Surveyor Consultant

organization County Commissioners of Kent County
Historical Society of Kent County

date April 20, 1986

Court House

778-4600

street & number Church Alley

telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

The frame, weatherboarded rear wing of the Brice-Johnson house is said to be a tenant house that has been moved back and forth at least once from being a freestanding dwelling, which is evidently its origin. It is two storeys tall and three bays wide, with a gable roof. Most of its first story (south section) was a kitchen, with a corner stair in the southwest corner. Part of the plaster is gone from the stair, revealing it to be of probable log construction, though not done in a sophisticated manner. The logs in one wall appear to be set one log apart from each other vertically, indicating that they are not dovetailed together. There is even some suggestion that there is no corner post. The primary purpose of this section seems to have been for farm help, and the rude second storey has not been used for some time. It appears to date from the nineteenth century.

The east end of the brick main section is the older of the two parts. The east gable-end wall is now parged and painted, making it impossible to see the brickwork. However, there is an indication that in the south bay there was once a door opening that was poorly closed. This is confirmed by examination on the interior, where the brick wall does not seem to be full depth (behind the present wall covering). Most likely there was once another wing to the east of the present house, probably 1-1/2 storey tall. The center window in the east gable is a later change to the house.

The bond of the north facade, the former rear, is Flemish, though the brickwork in the western added section is not as accurate. In general, though the addition continued the belt course and water table details that were begun in the earlier, east section, the new work does not seem to be of as high quality. The south facade was also laid in Flemish bond. On the west end the headers appear dark (where the paint is absent), but on the north wall of the east section headers do not appear to be dark in any pattern. A three-course belt extends across the entire front and rear facades. It terminates one stretcher's distance from the corners.

There are two separate cellars. The east cellar is entered on the south side, under the east bay's window, and the west cellar is entered from the west end in the south bay, where the steps are missing. The foundation seen in the east cellar is fieldstone to about ground level. The foundation bond on the south side of the east section is 1-to-5 common bond, while on the north side the bond is 1-to-3. The west addition's foundation is laid in English bond. At the joint between west and east sections it can be seen on the north side that they do not align perfectly, the west being about 1" higher. The rear wall cannot be seen at the juncture because of the hyphen. Both sections' water tables are molded, but not with the same molding. The east section has a two-piece cyma reversa (ovolo and cove), and the west section has a one-piece cove with fillets. There is no water table on the ends of the house. In the brickwork of the rear, south side holes for the insertion of girders for an old porch can be seen, and also marks for an old rail. A porch here would have been about six feet wide. This entry now opens onto a hyphen screened porch that connects with the screened porch spanning the frame wing.

It is now the west first-storey room that is the most interesting, for its
(continued)

panelling, paired cabinets, and cornice. Somehow the work does not look very early. It is almost as if someone who valued a traditionally panelled room was trying to provide one for himself, but later than the peak of popularity or craftsmanship for such work. The wainscoting paneling is bold below a chair rail that is continuous with the window sills, whose edge is coved with a cyma reversa and fillet below. The panels are recessed and plain, with an ovolo panel molding. They are horizontally arranged. There is much paint on these panels. Under the present dark green, there is white, slate blue, Prussian blue, mustard and brown. There have been some alterations in this room; the present floor is the second one, and there may have been termite damage to the lower panelling.

The cabinets on each side of the fireplace on the west wall have round-headed doors that are fully glazed. There is a double keystone. At their sides there are fluted pilasters with cove and fillet as cap, at the springing line. This is the same molding that is used as a backband around the head, also as backband for doors and windows. It is bold (1-1/2" wide). Otherwise, the head molding is quite wide and split-faced with a cyma profile between the faces as elsewhere in this room where split-faced molding is used. The upper cabinets have eight rectangular lights in each door and five lights in the round-headed section, that together are in a radiating pattern. The cabinets are 27" deep; in the upper section there are three widely spaced shelves. The shelf front edges were sawn but some have been broken off from their probable original butterfly shape. The double-doored cupboards below have no shelf.

Over the mantel in the center panel location there is now a large center piece of plywood. It has been suggested that perhaps there was a large sunburst type of decoration here, but whatever it was is now gone and the panel is plain. As with the wainscoting, these panels are plain and recessed, with panel molding of an ovolo. The mantel overall is quite bold. The shelf has a broken edge that is 4" deep and consisting of composite moldings, with two ovolos and one cavetto included. The brickwork of the opening appears to have been redone. The pilasters upper section (more than one-half) is fluted. There are plain frieze blocks on each side and a fluted frieze block in the center.

The window and door trim in this west room is split face with a cyma between faces. There is an inside corner bead and a large (1-1/2") cove with fillets for a backband. The jambs and lintel of the door to the hall are panelled, three panels on the jambs and two on the head. As elsewhere, the panels are plain and recessed, with ovolo panel molding. The original doors is gone, and in its place is a 15 light French door. The window in the east bay of the south side has been removed and the opening cut further for a doorway to the rear frame hyphen. The door there is obviously from elsewhere, and a 2-light transom has been installed.

There are no mantels visible now on the second storey; they may be behind panelling. On the west end of the main section in particular there may be panelling still in place. Some was seen in a closet.

In the burial ground in the front yard, there are stones for the Brice family, evidently the resident owners of this farm for many years. The oldest stone is for James Brice, who died in 1825 (b. 1780), and burials continued throughout the nineteenth century; there is said to have been one in the twentieth century as well, after the family no longer owned the farm.

The location of the burial ground is one clue that the house formerly was oriented to the south rather than to the north. Additionally, the present main entry on the north side of the house, facing the road, is a low door that leads into the stair hall under a landing. The other, south hall door really is the main door, and the stair rises along the west wall from south to north. Presumably the public road was located to the south of the house when it was built. This is also indicated by the south-facing orientation of another farmhouse on the Galena-Sassafras road, Cosden Farm (K-154), considerably to the west on the other side of Swantown Creek. There are scattered references in land records to at least a small settlement near the head of Swantown Creek, wherever that was considered to be, and a Quaker meeting house was located there in the late eighteenth century as well. It is likely that beginning at about the present Gregg Neck Road on the west, west of the Cosden Farm, to the east of the Brice-Johnson House the road was more southerly than its present route. By the time of the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County, however, the road appears to be in its present location, though the course has been slightly altered in modern times to straighten the route. One wonders if there is some connection between this Brice family and the James Brice family of Annapolis housebuilding fame.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

8429

Name Clayton Johnson House MHT# K-156
 Location Kent Searsboro
 COUNTY town
Rt 290 - 1/2 mile west of Rt 301
 address or road#

First owner of record Brice DATE _____

Present owner Mrs. Clayton Johnson DATE _____

Address Golts, Md.

Parcel or Deed # _____

Original use dwelling

Present use dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates _____

Long. & Lat. reading _____

Style Colonial

Date(s) of construction early 1700's

Architect _____

Builder _____

DESCRIPTION:

2 NUMBER of stories brick type wall construction

Foundation-basement brick - entrance on W gable center
and on S. side of East portion

Wall construction- brick - Flem bond on N facade

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls
square + cone milled water tables

3 brick string course on S. (probably on N too but covered by porch)

Chimneys one in NE corner - one on W gable

Name _____ MHT# A-156Entrance type & placement 2 bay from East side
w/ transom - victorian door 2 panelWindows 6/6 - 3/2 - irregular4 bays long x 1 bay deep.Shutters louveredRoof type A coveringCornice, eaves victorian bracketsDormers, cupolas NoPorches across N facade - 1 story porchWings, hyphens 1 story hyphen connection 3 bay 2 story
log building at right angles to house. covered
with clapboardInterior:
Stairway _____

Doors _____

Trim _____

Other notable work _____

Name _____ MHT# K-156Physical condition goodEnvironment un used farm

References:

MHT Color slide # _____

MHT B & W # _____

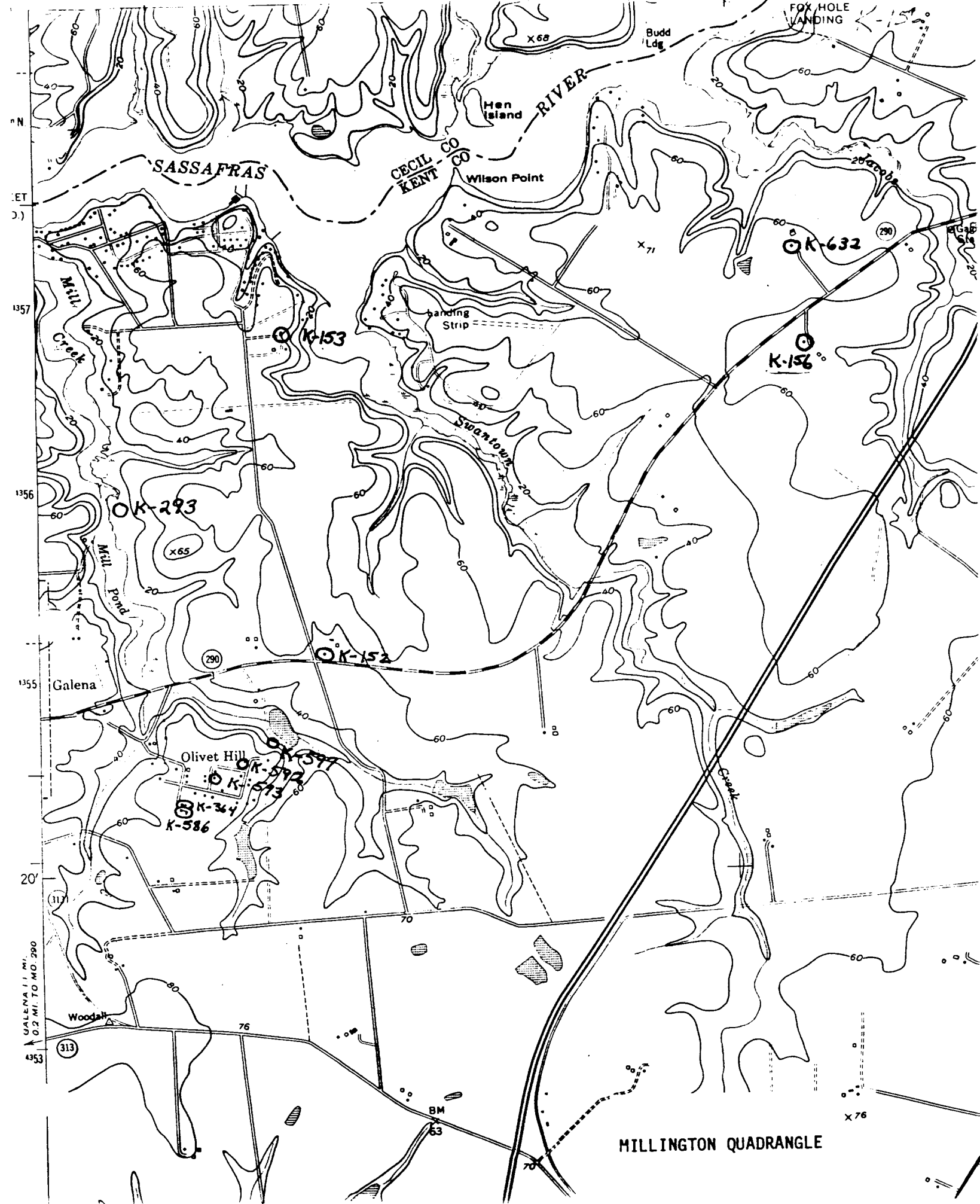
Owner contacted tenant

OTHER: _____

Recorder Michael BourneDate Sept 4, 1968

Summary: _____

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan,
and angle of photos, etc.





K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

Rt. 290, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/11/86

View to southwest

1C154-13

15-A
OCELAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY

K-156 Brice-Johnson Farm C.1785



K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

Rt. 290, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/11/86

View to northeast

K 156-18



K-156

Brice-Johnson Farm

Rt. 290, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw 4/20/86

West parlor - view to west

M#7